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MBA Addresses Diversity

Patrick Wilson Library
Montgomery Bell Academy
Nashville, Tennessee

Arun Anandaiah and Safa Homayoon

Over the past six years, beginning with efforts from Dr. Douglas Paschall and Mr. Ridley Wills, MBA has moved to diversify its community. In the 1991-1992 school year, minorities represented 7.3% of the student body with 4 African-Americans, 23 Asian-Americans, and 4 Latinos, but with no minority teachers. Since the student body has grown by about 100 students over the past 5 years, the percentage has dropped to 6.7%, even though the number of minorities has increased. Of the 39 minority students currently enrolled at MBA, there are 14 African-Americans, 22 Asian-Americans, and 3 Latinos, and 2 African-American teachers.

According to Mr. Gioia, the initiative to diversify MBA came with a renewed commitment to financial aid. Over the past 5 years, financial aid has grown from \$248,025 to \$488,663, a 93% increase, currently representing 7.53% of MBA's operating budget (in-

cluding tuition exemption for ten faculty children). This increase allows a growth of diversity among MBA students, along not only racial lines, but also socio-economic lines. Mr. Gioia is quick to add, however, that MBA does not "lower its standards. . . and doesn't get caught up in quotas."

In comparison, for the 1993-1994 school year, the Harpeth Hall School, Franklin Road Academy, Father Ryan, and McCallie (which has boarding students) reported spending \$210,000, \$85,000, \$95,000, and \$1,000,000, respectively, on financial aid. The University School of Nashville, the first private school in the area to integrate racially, reported spending \$470,481. USN reported that 18% of their current students are minorities: 9% African-American, 3% Asian, and 6% other. Having approximately 50 foreign/exchange students, USN also offers a variety of classes, such as studies in physiology, philosophy, the his-

tory of India, history of Ireland, and world culture courses. M.U.S. and Baylor were also contacted for this article, but declined to comment.

One way that MBA is striving to diversify itself is through Time to Rise, a summer program founded by Mr. David Whitfield in 1992 which private organizations fund and MBA supports. Mr. Gioia said, "I think what helped [with diversifying the student body] was Mr. Whitfield's establishing the Time to Rise program here on campus, because I think you have to break a lot of people's stereotypes about MBA." Mr. Whitfield does not think that Time to Rise is a recruiting program, but that its purpose is to help low income children become "better academically and socially on a daily basis in their communities." Students from underprivileged families participate in a program of math, science, English, and geography. Mrs. Thurmond explained that these

courses were designed "to help students develop study skills necessary for academic survival." The program has since increased to include 100 students, 3 of whom are enrolled at MBA. One student, Randy Smith, a seventh grader, catches a public bus to school every morning at 5:15. Randy admits that MBA is a challenge, and that Time to Rise has played a part in his academic development.

In addition, many of these same students are brought to MBA every Tuesday and Thursday via the YMCA Urban Services program. They are tutored by MBA students for one hour, and another hour is spent playing soccer or basketball. Mr. Whitfield coordinates both this program and Time to Rise. Programs such as these allow MBA students to come into contact with people of different backgrounds, therefore expanding their knowledge of the different parts of the Nashville community. (continued on page 2)

Totomoi Inducts Two New Members

Jon Green

On Monday, October 23, Brent Osborn and Rob Hancock were tapped as new members of Totomoi, an organization which honors students for school and community leadership. They joined current students members Allen Cermak, Scott Bowen, T. Eddie Sisk, and Dan McGugin, as well as faculty members Mr. Weaver, Dr. Crowell, Dr. Gaffney, Mrs. Garriot, Mr. Regen, Mr. Poston, and Mr. Bennett. The next tapping, for which both juniors and seniors are eligible, will be held in the spring and will induct an undetermined number of new members.

The two new inductees were chosen from a pool of 17 seniors who applied for admission. Each student who wished to be considered for induction voluntarily filled out an application.

The members of Totomoi used the applications as well as faculty members' ratings of the applicants to choose the

new members. The selection process changed recently from a point system because several college fraterni-

ties use this application method and, according to Mr. Gioia, a point system is "too arbitrary and therefore not good at identifying leadership." Mr. Gioia also pointed out that "every major scholarship program, such as the Rhodes and Morehead scholarships, has a subjective element, even Totomoi."

Brent Osborn and Rob Hancock met the subjective criteria of Totomoi by participating in a wide variety of activities and excelling at several of them. In addition to other activities, Brent is currently President of the Student Council and a member of the varsity basketball and soccer teams. Rob is a long-time member of the Theater and has had the lead role in a number of plays. He has also excelled in the chorus, as well as in other activities.



T. Eddie Sisk, Scott Bowen, Bill McGugin, and Allen Cermak welcome Brent Osborn into Totomoi.

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Fall Concert Showcases Students' Musical Ability

Brian Stults

On Sunday, October 22, MBA musicians gathered in the Paschall Theater for the 1995 Fall Concert. Under the tutelage of Jazz Band director, Mr. Steve Rundburg, and Chorus/Orchestra director, Dr. David Cassel, a plethora of diverse musical pieces entertained a packed auditorium.

MBA's music program has grown exponentially over the past several years. Currently, about one third of the student body is involved in some aspect of the program. "I'm pleased and a little bit surprised," says Mr. Rundburg. "[The number of students involved] has just skyrocketed, and I'm not really sure why. I'm just happy there's so much interest." Now, instead of one, there are three independent jazz bands performing: one for the high school, one for the eighth grade, and one for the seventh grade. The choral groups have also been expanded on the basis of grade. Additionally, the Chamber Orchestra integrates and combines both Harpeth Hall and MBA students in musical ventures.

The chamber music of the concert reflected the ways through which students could work, both as individuals and as groups. The concert began by featuring Michael Yoon on piano and Hanlin Qian on violin playing G.B. Bonocini's "Divertimento de Camera." After two

more pieces featuring solos, the joint Harpeth Hall/MBA Chamber Orchestra assembled to present a successful pair of works, most notably Henry Purcell's "Music for A Midsummer Night's Dream."

Next, the MBA Singers, the junior school component of the choral pro-

gram, left the audience roaring with laughter. The high school chorus followed with both humorous and classical selections, including Tom Leer's "The Hunting Song," a funny piece for the Men's Ensemble. Finally, the jazz bands took the stage. The Junior School jazz bands impressed the audi-



gram, added some levity to the concert. Their presentation of the "Concerto for Choir and Cafeteria," a comic piece expressing utter disdain for cafeteria

food, left the audience roaring with laughter. The high school chorus followed with both humorous and classical selections, including Tom Leer's "The Hunting Song," a funny piece for the Men's Ensemble. Finally, the jazz bands took the stage. The Junior School jazz bands impressed the audi-

Diversity at MBA

(continued from page one)

As Mr. Gioia says, not only do these programs change the children's perception about MBA, but it also enhances the diversity of the MBA community by bringing the school into contact with other communities.

One major hindrance to diversity at MBA is tradition. Mr. Gioia acknowledges the fact that change at MBA is a difficult process. He believes that attracting not only minority students but also minority teachers is crucial. One area of tradition that Mr. Gioia believes in preserving, nevertheless, is the policy of favoritism for alumni children in admissions. Some comparable independent schools, however, like Albuquerque Academy in New Mexico, believe that they, by showing no bias, diversify their student

body. Mr. Gioia "think[s] that there is something important about tradition and connections" although "some traditions are good and some are bad." His purpose is not to discriminate, but to instill "generations of interest in [the] school"; the increased likelihood that alumni children will graduate and the support they will provide are, as Mr. Gioia says, "by-products."

Over the past several years MBA has used advertising directed at a variety of audiences. One advertisement aimed at alumni features two families, the Nelsons and the Mathews, who have produced several generations of MBA students, and states, "MBA shows tradition." Another ad features Bill and Daniel McGugin in sports outfits and Rob Hancock in a theatri-

cal costume with MBA's ideal, "Gentleman, Scholar, Athlete," printed at the bottom. Ads that ran before the Open House in local papers featured Titus Thomas, who is African-American, Yasunori Hashimura, who is Asian-American, and Adam Michael, who is white, standing together as a group wearing coat and tie. This ad appeared in *The Metropolitan Daily*, which is read predominantly by African-Americans, the *Nashville Scene*, and other newspapers such as *The Tennessean*. Another version of this ad, which is being used in posters at the school, shows Titus wearing a football uniform, Hashinori wearing a coat and tie, and Adam wearing a casual shirt.

MBA has come a long way since 1966, when a "senior superlatives" photograph in the yearbook showed a student at a KKK rally. Now the school accommodates Jewish families by altering the date of a 7th-grade retreat. In addition, Mr. Gioia has used the assemblies to educate the student body about cultural and regional differences. For example, Rabbi Ronald Roth of West End synagogue came and talked to the student

body about Rosh-Hashannah. Also, Dr. Henry Foster, former U.S. Surgeon-General nominee, has agreed to address the MBA student body in January or February. Mr. Gioia also hopes that the Internet will allow students to expand their knowledge about the world beyond MBA. Furthermore, the Headmaster plans to maintain one foreign exchange student. Also, student from the Boy's Club of New York will also attend MBA in future years.

Mr. Gioia readily admits that MBA has had very few minority graduates, but he adds that he is attempting to change that fact. Ms. Hensley, MBA's Director of Admissions, said that the school is not comfortable with its current minority population and wishes that it were much larger. She adds that changing any community, especially a school, is a slow process. As she stated, "We would be better individually and collectively with a broader, more diverse community."

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Homecoming Goes Smoothly

Brent Osborn

Homecoming 1995 proved to be a great success. The festivities started off on October 13 with the annual Spaghetti Supper, as students and adults from all over Middle Tennessee came to devour the "edible" spaghetti. Junior Chase Roady said, "It wasn't the best food I've ever eaten, but at least it was nourishing." The mothers and fathers of MBA students did a terrific job, however, in accommodating the hundreds of people who flocked to Brownlee O'Currey Gymnasium for their dinner. While the members of the Big Red Club waited on alumni, students, and friends of MBA, thoughts turned to the game, in which the Big Red would take on the Cobras from Whites Creek. Unfortunately, the skies opened up during the game. During halftime, the Homecoming Court braved its way through the sloppy field for the crowning of the 1995 Homecoming Queen. The seven attendants (Freshman Mimi Verner; Sophomore Lindsey Gaston; Juniors Carrie Smith and Grace Verner; Seniors Sukey Tully, Katie Pritchett, and Kristen Carter) trekked through the

moist field with heads high, in wet dresses and high heels. Queen Kristen Carter received an inspiring kiss from Freshman class president David Macintosh. Fortunately, the rain disappeared during the start of the second half in which the Big Red maintained control en route to a solid 14-0 win over the reeling Cobras. With that victory, all eyes then turned to the ever-popular Homecoming Dance.

This year, the faculty decided that it would be best for the students to arrive at the dance by nine o'clock so that we "wouldn't stay at dinner too long." Students accepted this change without too much protest as they packed the gym to dance to the sounds of "Peel." The band was great, and the students seemed to have a wonderful time throughout the night. Dr. Crowell said, "It went really well. People seemed to enjoy themselves and the band. All in all, it was a good night." The dance had one of the largest crowds in recent years and even made a profit of several hundred dollars for the Student Council. The dancing was wild as the student body

Library Survey Results

Lee Hampton

The Bell Ringer recently surveyed the MBA high school student body after a request from Mr. Gioia. About 350 forms were filled out. The survey was intended to help the committee in charge of planning the renovation of the Library with their decisions. Results from some selected questions (percentages are based on the number of students who responded to each question):

1. How frequently do you use the library? (97% of the total responded)
Daily- 37% Weekly-36% Monthly- 17% Yearly- 5% Not at all- 5%
2. Does the current library, along with the Ball computer lab, meet your requirements for computer access? (95% of the total responded)
Yes- 53% No- 18% No opinion-29%
3. Should the renovated library have more computers than the current available? If so, what kind? (96% of the students surveyed responded)
IBM compatible- 42% No more computers- 11% Apples- 20% Other- 3% No opinion- 24%
4. Should campus computers have internet access?
(95% of the students surveyed responded)- Yes, with restrictions- 24%
Yes, with unlimited access- 60% No opinion- 13% No- 3%
5. Would you benefit from a campus computer network centered on the library's computers? (94% of the students surveyed responded)
Yes- 68% No opinion- 20% No- 12%

and their dates boogied down to songs such as "Jenny," "You Don't Know How It Feels", and the first, and probably last, metal version of Garth Brooks' "The Dance." The crowd began to thin as the band came on for their third set, but troopers who stuck it out were the few and the proud. Rumor has it that the Juniors will attempt

to sign "Peel" for the prom dance in the spring.

I would like to thank everyone who helped organize this weekend, especially the members of the Student Council, the faculty chaperones, the Mothers and Fathers Clubs, and Dr. Crowell, for another successful Homecoming weekend.

THE ROBINSON-HUMPHREY COMPANY, INC.

Patrick Wilson Library
Montgomery Bell Academy
Nashville, Tennessee

Let's Wire Ricki's Mouth Shut

Mark Pettus

To realize the extent of the moral decay rampant in America today, one need only watch one episode of Ricki Lake's TV talk show, which applauds the dysfunctional as the ideal without regard to the effects on its misguided viewers. Most episodes are little more than circus freak shows that assemble the most glaring and pathetic examples of failure that the world has to offer and put them on display, to have their privacy invaded and their trivial concerns analyzed with the seriousness due the Holocaust. The sexually promiscuous, the racists, and the drug addicts flaunt their flawed morality for all to see; the more sensational, the better. Topics are debated with the rudeness and the bawdiness one would expect from an audience that is encouraged to scream, whoop, holler, point, and spit. The real issues are ignored; instead, most shows degenerate into a screaming match, with the winner determined by who can shout "racist," "bigot," "homophobe" or, worst of all, "slut" the loudest. Of course, to lend a feeling of scientific objectivity to the proceedings, a renowned psychologist, self-help book author, or psychic is always on hand to sum up the situation by labeling the guests as "dysfunctional," "co-dependant," or "traumatized."

In this atmosphere of uneducated and uncivilized behavior, Ricki and her talk show host cohorts always try to give their audience a feeling of moral responsibility and enlightenment by allowing them to confront sensational fringe groups and scapegoats. Some shows are more deliberate than others; often, the guests will be a group of KKK members or neo-Nazis. By bravely standing up, grabbing the microphone, and slobbering on it, the guests feel they are taking a stand against racism; poking fun at the Grand Dragon's funny hat, they feel, marks a monumental step forward in ending racism. In other cases, the audience's rage is directed at a particular member of the panel, usually a lousy boyfriend or a man who slapped his wife. The host diverts the audience's attention from confronting the real issue at hand, be it wife-beating or lousy boyfriends, to denouncing and insulting the culprit on the stage. Often, the scapegoat isn't even represented; this scapegoat is usually the government or society. The parents of juvenile delinquents, ostensibly present to examine where they went wrong, all too often blame their own failure on the lack of support from Uncle Sam, or the cruelty and oppressiveness of society, thus ridding themselves of guilt by attributing it to some faceless, distant entity. Usually, this scapegoating isn't half so com-

plicated; most guests just blame their problems on the lifestyle of their sexual partner, without once questioning why they themselves are connected with such a person in the first place. No progress is made, no practical solutions proposed. Individuals with opposing viewpoints are condemned as ignorant and dismissed with the command to "get educated"; the substance of their arguments is never dealt with, but rather ignored. This method of addressing a social ill reduces it to just another cliché, while desensitizing the viewers to the degree of intellectual stagnation they are watching.

Many hosts respond to attacks with the classic resort of any irresponsible journalist: free speech. Granted, Geraldo Rivera has just as much right to continue his show as any of his Ku Klux Klan-member guests do to distribute racist pamphlets. But inherent in the right to free speech is the assumption, or merely the hope, that it will be used responsibly, in a manner that shows respect for the moral well-being and intelligence of anyone in the audience. Today's talk shows blatantly ignore this responsibility; ratings are all that matter, and the sensational, the tabloid, and the sexually explicit are proven ratings winners. In his own personal fight against ignorance, Geraldo, that soldier of tolerance and enlightenment, has gotten entangled in fist-fights with KKK members twice: once off-stage, once on. His shining example of punching and being punched in his struggle against prejudice, with his audience wildly cheering him on, shows what some will resort to in order to gain ratings. If racism doesn't work, some disgusting display of sexual immorality or a bitter sibling squabble will certainly do the trick.

An end to these talk-shows is certainly a long way away; given the current ratings, viewers are not likely to readily flip the channel. The old theory of "garbage in, garbage out" is not enough to convince them to stop watching, and new hosts show up on a seemingly daily basis. This inundation with moral decay is perhaps a good thing, due to the violent reaction it will inevitably cause, a reaction that is already under way due to bi-partisan efforts in Congress to denounce such programs. But efforts by politicians will no doubt be dismissed as attempts to pander for votes; the change must, and will occur, in individual homes, as, one-by-one, concerned parents pull the plug on Ricki and her friends, thus administering a large dose of Ammonium-AD to America's primary source of moral diarrhea.

Letter to the Editor

As the faculty advisor to the Honor Council, I frequently am in the position of hearing all kinds of comments from my colleagues, my former students, my current students, and our parent community about the Honor Council. I am privy to the behind-the-scenes working of the Honor Council, I help with the election of the sophomore class representatives, I meet each year before school with the senior representatives, and I explain the nature of our Honor Council to both our own new faculty members and to faculties from other schools who are interested in starting an Honor Council of their own. I am also a "Type A" personality and an optimist, a worrier and an idealist, an impartial observer, and a very involved participant with a very vested interest in the whole notion of the role Honor plays at our school.

The students at MBA ARE the Honor Council. The students choose the representatives, incur and decide any punishments, occasionally evade the system, occasionally avert their eyes when they know dishonor on any level is occurring, and even more occasionally, I hope, brag about pulling a fast one on the Honor Council. The students decide on any amendments to the Honor Council Constitution; their most recent decision being essentially to leave the system as it is. As a Type A personality and a worrier, I spend a lot of my time wondering if our system works. As an optimist and an idealist, I like to think that it does. But as an impartial observer and an teacher with a very vested interest in our school, and as a realist, I have several concerns: 1. Rumor has it that some of our students have no confidence in our system because of either present or past weak Honor Councils. There is some degree of dishonorable behavior going on that is overlooked or grumbled about but not confronted.

Although, I think, the Honor Council is generally regarded favorably by the faculty, I also think that some faculty members are dissatisfied with particular decisions and/or the amount of dishonesty that never makes it to the Honor Council. And then there's the free floating, generic criticism: it should be a lot better, the system stinks, people are getting away with murder, or my personal favorite, a warning doesn't really mean anything. MBA students ARE the Honor Council. If they have no confidence in the system, or if they think a warning doesn't really mean anything, or if they complain about the members or the decisions or the constitution, about whom are they REALLY complaining? If the students are grumbling about the weakness of the system, about whom are they REALLY grumbling? Logically, themselves. I challenge this student body to see if we can have a REAL system of Honor in our daily lives in and out of school. I challenge all students to get involved on any level of support they can. Carefully elect good representatives. Support the representatives you have elected. Use the system. Talk to me or your advisor if you have a problem with the system. Don't grumble in quarters where grumbling does no good. Don't turn your eyes when you see ANY kind of dishonor. And please don't say that a warning doesn't matter.

-Mrs. Beatie O'Connell

Why Racism?

Grant Martin

There is a difference between being racially conscious, politically correct, and racially hateful. Political correctness is the government's way of trying to ease any racial tension by pleasing everyone. It is impossible to please everyone. Political correctness has gone beyond racial consciousness into being absolutely ridiculous. Being racially conscious is a different matter. It is very reasonable, in my opinion, to simply acknowledge the fact that someone is the color they are, and then to move on. It is not necessary to cherish the fact that they are red or yellow, black or white, but to be conscious of the particular reasons why they might have different opinions from yours, not because of their color, but because they are just a different person. Racial hatred is a personal problem. It is a method that people use to release anger, fear, or ignorance. Being proud of your social heritage is one thing, but to come to the conclusion that your race is the only good race, or that because you are the color

you are that you are special is not only selfish, but very arrogant. Arrogance and selfishness are the main reasons that we have problems in this world. It is also advised to those of any race who would like to be respected to be conscious of how well you represent yourself personally. If you would like to be judged as an individual, be an individual and do group yourself with others who form ignorant or biased opinions. Racism, especially at MBA, should not exist. This should be a school where a gentleman is smart enough and comfortable with himself enough to form his own opinions. A man should not worry his time away on whether O.J. Simpson was guilty or whether he should hate or love or care about some of the matters that are accepted by a race. Appreciation for racial heritage and being racially conscious should be a practice of all people, especially at MBA. But arrogance, selfishness, and outlets of frustration that are directed toward others are signs of ignorance.

Disclaimer: The ideas expressed in this forum are not necessarily those of MBA.

Sad State of Affairs

Chris Allen

Before I begin, I would like to make one thing very clear — this article is in no way intended to be racist. I am simply describing things as I see them, and no matter how one twists things, it is impossible to find fault in an accurate account of the facts. Of course, this article will present the issue with my own particular slant (after all, this is the opinions page), but nothing I say will be unsubstantiated, and the conclusions I draw, as will be seen, are the only ones possible in an objective examination of the facts. Nevertheless, I realize that if someone wishes to read something into an article, even something that's not there, he can and will do so, distorting things as much as needed until it says what he wants it to say. These people I pity. For everyone else, I hope that you will find some redeeming value in this article.

Of the innumerable problems that our country presently faces, there is one which stands out prominently above the rest — the problem of race relations. At least in principle, the United States is an egalitarian society; that is, no one, regardless of race, is above or below someone else. While an admirable goal, it would be naïve to believe that such a state of bliss exists presently in our country. As witnessed throughout the history of the country, from events such as the early slave rebellions, the Civil War, the Watts Riots, the civil rights marches, and more current examples such as the Rodney King trial, the O.J. Simpson fiasco, and the Million Man March, the United States has never enjoyed racial harmony. While steps have been taken to help ease (and ostensibly eliminate) racial tensions, these measures have

fallen short, usually due to inherent contradictions. For instance, in order to stop racial discrimination in society, what did the government do? It instituted racial discrimination, in the form of Affirmative Action. Discrimination is, by definition, the practice of giving jobs to people of one race in-

**From the Annals of W-5:
"Whoever desires too much is
always needy."
-Claudian**

stead of another, only because of race. All Affirmative Action has done is order companies to give a certain number of jobs to a particular race, regardless of qualifications. When the government start combating a negative, unwritten policy by putting the policy in writing, something is wrong.

The range of attitudes concerning racism is as broad as the range of political opinion. At one extreme are found such groups as the KKK and a whole host of outspoken racists such as Malcom X, Jesse Jackson, and Louis Farrakhan. It is these radicals who are as much to blame for the current troubles as anyone else. The best, most current example is Louis Farrakhan, who recently orchestrated the Million Man March, a gathering of about 800,000 black men (no women were invited) away from their families and jobs in order to preach to them about the importance of being responsible. I don't think I need to explain the contradiction. At this march, Farrakhan ranted and raved for several hours, being as anti-Semitic as ever, and called for the federal gov-

ernment not only to give him land to start a black nation, but also to fund this nation until it is capable of supporting itself. Since the sixties the government had paid over \$3 trillion to indigent and minority aid programs, and nothing good has come of it other than to make the recipients more de-

pendent on the government (which was the Democrats' goal all along, but that's another story). Perhaps we should try something new.

One of the biggest problems, as I see it, in the country now is that many minorities are actively seeking insult, rather than trying to find a way to get themselves out of their trouble; that is, they are looking for discrimination, usually when there is none to be found. Contrary to the opinion of some, the government owes no one something for nothing. That your great, great, great cousin twice removed was once insulted by a bigot does not entitle you to compensation today. Alan Brinkley's *American History: A Survey* artfully defines the basic ideology of the country. He says that "it would be the innate talents and energies of individuals that would determine their roles in society, not their position at birth. . . . all people would have to earn their success. There would be no equality of condition, but there would be full equality of opportunity." The government guarantees that everyone will have the same opportunities, not

the same success. And this idea, ultimately, is the solution to racism (although it probably cannot be so simplified). Out of necessity, the most qualified, not the most "white," will succeed. This concept applies everywhere. Businesses, for example, should hire the most qualified individuals, lest the company fail. Schools should admit on the basis of academic skill, not in order to fill racial quotas (*personal commentary*: and not for athletic or journalistic talent — school is first and foremost a place for education, not extracurricular activities). [The Editor-in-Chief strongly disagrees]. In professional athletics, this policy of hiring the most qualified is certainly true, and we also see a glaring double standard. Why haven't Affirmative Action standards been applied here? In the NBA, for example, whites are an overwhelming minority, yet no civil liberty group has come forward demanding that more whites, although less qualified than the majority of blacks, be hired. After all, racial equality runs both ways.

These goals, I realize, will be difficult to realize. It is impossible to deny that many people discriminate out of pure bigotry, with no valid reasons for their actions. Even with the best laid plans, one cannot ignore human tendencies toward prejudice. While it is quite easy to proclaim what would be "ideal," nothing can be accomplished without first overcoming irrational human biases. I do believe, however, that the ideas that I have proposed are a good place to start. We must stop asking "What can someone else do for me?" and start asking "What can I do for myself?"

Cheerleader Respect

T. Eddie Sisk

I was quietly sitting in the lunchroom the other day when one of the guys at my table said, "Hey, did you hear about the cheerleader who hurt her ankle?" To which another guy replied, "Get hurt cheerleading? Man, that's like breaking a leg sitting on my couch watching T.V." This kind of annoyed me, but when I tried to defend them, a few of whom are friends, the only response I got was, "Come on, all they do is jump around and scream a lot." I just let the matter drop there. A few days later, however, I was given the chance to write this article and, naturally, I said yes.

Cheerleader respect, what the heck does that mean exactly? Does it mean support, attention, or even just the obligatory attention and applause of an MBA assembly? Are they even a member of the MBA community at

all? I say yes. As for respect, they deserve that, too. Some say they're just something to look at, others don't give them that, and still others think them useless. Well, they aren't completely useless. Yes, they may dance too much, fall occasionally, not know exactly which way to run after an interception, and turn that dadgum loudspeaker way too loud most of the time, but at least they're trying which is a lot more than I can say for some members of the MBA community who didn't exactly bother to show up for the games or just couldn't find their way into the stands from the concession area. Their enthusiasm, even if sometimes grossly misguided (girls, right after practice is a bad time to try to decorate the locker room), is at least in the right vein and should be emulated in some ways by our

community in general.

We should also remember they don't have to do this. As much as we hate to admit it, they're doing us a favor coming over here, and doing the work they do. Surprise! They do work sometimes long after most of us have left. The fact that they now engage in cheerleader conditioning, even running stadiums surprised the heck out of me, quite frankly. Cheerleader conditioning? Yes, cheerleader conditioning. The point is they work awfully hard to do a good job for us and just like any one of us, they deserve some respect for their efforts. They may be too darn perky for their own good some of the time, but the fact of the matter is that what they do in coming over here and taking the flak of about 600 obnoxious guys takes a heck of a lot of courage. That's what

really demands our respect, their ability to put up with us. For all the times they did something, and even they'll admit they do (girls, there is such a thing as motivational overkill), they still support this school a lot more than some of its students. Next time you think what they do is easy, you put on polyester underwear, a skirt, and go out in 30 degree weather and smile for about two hours. Hey, I tried it and, let me tell you, I've got the legs for it and all, but it was pretty dadgum annoying. Don't get me wrong, it's not like they all do it out of the kind goodness of their hearts. Frankly, I have no clue why they do it, but the fact is that they do. And for that reason alone, they deserve our respect. Even if one of them didn't know which one was the guy with the hair.

The Great Debate: the WCW vs. the WWF!!!

WCW: The Choice of a New Generation

Matt Reasor

Question: What's harder to find, a person who favors the WCW conference over the WWF conference or a Pro-Wrestling fan in West Nashville?

Answer: They are both equally difficult.

Proof: I single-handedly questioned bypassers at the Belle Meade shopping center one day after school.

Throughout my years at MBA, I have been involved in many debates over which wrestling conference is better, WCW or WWF. For many years I took the side of WWF only because, when I was a child, it was the prevailing conference (and WWF had its own Saturday morning cartoon). When I asked 16 passers-by, one afternoon, the question "Which do you prefer, WCW or WWF?", I received these results: 10 in favor of WWF, 3 in favor of WCW, and 3 who did not know the difference (one of these people was our own Mrs. O'Connell). I was personally shocked at these results! Who could deny a wrestling conference which is the home for such names as Hulk Hogan, Sting, Lex Luger, Disco Inferno. Does WWF have Captain Lou Albano as a manager? I don't believe they do. The one person I have left off the WCW superstar roster is the famous Randy

Savage. The reason why I left his name off the roster was because Randy Savage is my own personal trainer. Throughout my training as a pro-wrestling superstar, Randy has shown me the three major elements involved in being a successful wrestler. These three elements are: 1. Muscles 2. Hair Gel 3. Body Waxing. Unfortunately, I have only been able to accomplish one of these three elements. The WCW Conference is a very unique conference in the sense that it is based upon the true enjoyment and practice of pro-wrestling. Through my eyes, this is much more powerful than building a conference based on make-up, steroids, spandex and the phony fighting which can be seen on any WWF match. Another advantage to WCW is that the matches can be viewed on selected cable channels for free rather than pay-per-view matches for which the WWF charges up to 50 dollars just for a "battle till death". My closing comments were best illustrated by the Bookstar clerk Davis, when he said, "I like WCW because most of the wrestlers I knew when I was young are still there and then there's Rick Flair. . . eleven times Heavy Weight Champion of the World!" So, for those of you who still favor WWF over WCW, I will see you in the ring Saturday night and this time I am not joking, it's going to be a battle till death!

The *Bell Ringer* would like to take this opportunity to thank the Mothers Auxiliary for its continued support.

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WWF: The Best of the West

Adam Michael

While some sports fans are watching the World Series and football games, most sensible people are ignoring these meaningless events and concentrating on a much more important sport: Professional Wrestling! For all you fans of the figure-four leglock and body slams, Matt "I wanna be like Macho-Man" Reasor and I have decided to compare wrestling leagues in the *Bell Ringer* column you have all been waiting for--WWF vs. WCW! For any of you fans thinking wrestling is fake, Matt and I are willing to challenge anyone out there to a two-man, steel cage, Texas death match! Since pro wrestling is so complicated, I have decided to analyze the superior WWF against the fake WCW.

1. The Owners

Ted Turner owns the WCW, while Vince McMahon owns the WWF. Vince almost went to jail for supplying steroids to his wrestlers, while Ted Turner owns CNN and is married to a commie traitor, Jane Fonda. (She is kind of hot, though, in her workout videos) Advantage: WWF

2. World Champions

The traitor Hulk Hogan defected to the WCW and is champion, while Big Daddy Kool Diesel is the WWF champion. Big Daddy Kool went out with Pamela Anderson. Hulk Hogan starred in such inspirational movies as *Suburban Commando* and *Mr. Nanny*. Advantage: WWF

3. Tag Team Champions

The Smoking Guns, cowboys who went to college on a rodeo scholarship, are the WWF champions. The American Males, WCW champions, are posterboys for the Chippendales

calendar. Will McInnes said the WWF champions are better because they are real "Southern Men." Advantage: WWF

4. National Champion

Razor Ramone is the WWF champ. Razor chews on a toothpick, wears 25 lbs. of gold chains, and slicks back his hair, kind of like Reasor's. The WCW's champ is Sting. He does not slick back his hair like Reasor's. Advantage: WWF

5. Mean Japanese Guy

Yokozuna weighs 635 pounds and likes to sit on people's faces. His WCW counterpart, Kurosawa, is a master of, you guessed it, martial arts. The WWF uses the better racial stereotype. Advantage: WWF

6. Random Stuff

The WWF has women wrestling. It's fun to see Pamela Anderson look-alikes beat up on 300-pound chicks. I just hate it when the 300 pound girls wear spandex. The WWF also has Sean Michaels, who got in a fight with Tommy Lee because Sean told Tommy about what Pamela Anderson is really like. Way to go, Sean! The WCW has a guy named the Disco Inferno--have you ever seen a guy wrestle in polyester? Not a pretty sight. The WWF even has a gay wrestler named Golddust. Now, that's Politically Correct! As you can see, the superior league is the WWF. If you want real wrestling action watch the WWF. If you wanna see the Disco Inferno wear Polyester, watch the WCW! (I hope he doesn't get excited in the ring, if you know what I mean.) Also, you don't see any WWF starts in Slim Jim commercials, do you?

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Big Red Football Wraps Up Remarkable Season

Matthew Berry

The Big Red started off the second half of its season at home against a highly touted Christian Brothers team, ranked 4th in the state. The Big Red put up fourteen first-half points, with Max Fuller plunging into the end zone from a few yards out and connecting on a long touchdown pass from Bill McGugin to Paul Russell. The Big Red received the kickoff in the second half and, after a great return, Leland Prevost scampered off a tackle for a forty-yard touchdown. The Purple Wave could only muster seven points as the Big Red defense sealed the victory. The following week, amid the Homecoming festivities, the Big Red faced Whites Creek, a team blessed with game breaking speed. The Big Red defense shut down the Cobra attack, not allowing any points. The offense's two first-half touchdowns by Max Fuller and Leland Prevost were enough for the win. The last two games on the schedule were away against Hillsboro and home against Clarksville. After sputtering a little in the first quarter, the Big Red offense got rolling and racked up 21 points. The Defense continued to play well, shutting out the Burros until late in the second half. The Big Red offense was on all cylinders for its last home game against Clarksville, racking up 35 points in the first half. Will Bartholomew rammed his way into the end zone once, as did Leland Prevost. Bill McGugin threw for two touchdowns passes, including one fifty-five

yard touchdown to Max Fuller.

MBA entered the playoffs at 9-1 facing perennial powerhouse Lincoln County. The Big Red defense contin-

With eight minutes to play, the outlook was looking grim, as JCM's defense had held the Big Red scoreless, earning a 10-0 lead with eight min-



Rob Bearden carries on the way to the rout of Hillsboro.

ued to play well, holding Lincoln County to a first-half field goal and then denying them time and time again on fourth down, including a fourth and goal late in the fourth quarter. After taking the ball down the field on the opening drive, Max Fuller punched the ball into the end zone from a few yards out. John Markham iced the game with a 42-yard field goal late in the game. The Big Red got a rematch against JCM, the team which bounced the Big Red from the playoffs last year. "Everybody remembers what happened to us last year. We needed to see that loss as motivation to come out and play hard, and keep our season going," said quarterback Bill McGugin. The team did just that.

utes to play. With time winding down though, Bill McGugin connected on a bomb to Blake Sloan in the end zone, pulling MBA to within a field goal. The Big Red defense then answered as it had all game long, stopping the powerful JCM offense, and putting the team's fate back in the hands of McGugin and the offense. The Big Red responded in typical MBA fashion, as Max Fuller capped off a drive that sent the Big Red up 14-10. JCM's last chance for victory was wiped away when Daniel Johnson intercepted a JCM pass, sealing the MBA victory, and a home meeting with region foe Henry County. Coming off an upset of undefeated Germantown, Henry County looked to be the Big

Red's toughest opponent yet, despite an early season MBA victory over the Patriots. But the Big Red remained confident, evident as they stormed out to a thirteen point halftime lead. Henry County came out to play after the break though, tying the contest with two minutes to play in the fourth quarter. Thanks to McGugin's quick out patterns designed to save some clock, the Big Red was able to get the ball to the one to stage yet another last minute victory, this time setting up an eagerly awaited contest against the Sports Academy in the State semi-finals. Thousands of fans packed into an overcrowded BA stadium to see a game that people had been eyeing for months, even years. Right away, MBA proved that they had come to play with the state's top team, as the Big Red posted a defensive stop, and then marched down the field to set up a Markum field goal. After trailing 7-3 at the half, MBA again marched down field, thanks to an incredible run by Will Bartholomew, to take a 10-7 lead. Despite a great effort by the Big Red special teams, which caused a fumble that gave MBA the ball deep in Eagle territory, the offense was never again able to get it going, and the Eagles escaped with a 35-10 victory. Nevertheless, the 1995 team established the best record in school history, and advanced farther than any other recent Big Red team in the State playoffs. Congratulations to all who were a part of this incredible season.



Here comes the Big Red, on their way to the Final Four.

Long Awaited Basketball Season Begins

Clay Hamblen

Varsity Basketball officially began practice on November 1. After a grueling preseason, the team has high expectations that they will perform to their utmost ability. Even with the departure of Will Coles to Furman, Rob Welholter to Yale, and Mark Dunkerly to Middlebury, the team has had a tradition in which other players, returning and new, step up to meet the challenge. The team will now look to Allen Cermak and Whit Smith to replace those who have departed. Mike Godwin, the only returning starter from last year's squad, will lead a solid backcourt. These players are more than capable of filling the void, and of bringing their own talents to



Marler proves that cross country runners, too, are athletes.

enliven the game.

This year, the Big Red will aim for the elusive state title. Allen Cermak, who has big plans for the Big Red, says "We will definitely surprise a lot of people. Not only do we have the players, but we also have the stamina and the strength to carry us all the way." The team showed these qualities in their 3-0 start and hopes to keep their success going as the District season gets into full gear. We hope to see the entire student body out there because, as Coach Bowers puts it, "With the entire MBA community out there to support us, it's as if we cannot do anything but win."

Great Expectations For The Wrestling Team

Alan Roe

The electricity is in the air as the Wrestling Team prepares for the '95-'96 campaign. The preparation began this summer at Appalachian State Wrestling Camp where the Big Red, led by Coach Killian, posted successful records while making great improvements. In the grueling Appalachian State Tournament, the team proved successful by placing 3 wrestlers (Alan Roe first, Harwell Horton 3rd, and David Sanders 4th). The preparation continued in the fall Weights and Running program. Presently, the Big Red prepares through rigorous practice regimens led by new Head Coach Frank Simpson. The team returns 5 state championship qualifiers (Fr. Jonathan Williams, Jr. David Sanders, Jr. Sterling Sanders, Jr. Andrew Sanders, and Sr. Alan Roe). Andrew, who qualified for the State Tournament in '94, missed the '95 campaign due to an injury, but is now prepared to return to the mat. Harwell Horton, Akinori Hashimura, and Eric Compton barely missed the State

Tournament last year but are prepared to face and beat the competition this year. A host of vigorous young faces is also expected to contribute this year.

"A host of vigorous young faces is expected to contribute."

Seniors Roe, Hashimura, Kirksey, and Compton recognize Coach Simpson's emphasis on Senior Leadership and enthusiastically accept this role. Coach Simpson states that "no team can be successful without Senior Leadership." The team will need good leadership in order to meet Coach Simpson's expectations. "Our ultimate goal is to win 14 Individual State

Championships. If our goals were any tougher, we would be cheating ourselves." These expectations reveal the enthusiasm shown by the team in its approach to the upcoming season.

The Big Red opened its season Nov. 28 in a quad meet against Beech, Hendersonville, and Overton. The team defeated Beech and Hendersonville, while falling short of state power Overton. The wrestling team now faces the present task of improving on a daily basis. Coach Simpson states, "if we improve on a daily basis and take our matches one at a time, we will have lots of success." Sr. Akinori Hashimura commented, "Coach Simpson and Coach Killian have slightly different styles, yet through their combination in the practice room we learn more and improve each day." With this daily improvement and these great expectations, the whole team expects to win. A key to this success will be fan support, so the team hopes to see 600 students at every match this year.

Sports Editor's Note:

Over a month ago, the golf team played in the region tournament. For the first time in several years, they came out victorious and headed to the state tournament. They finished a respectable seventh. Meanwhile, the cross country team ran in their region race, where they finished second to Father Ryan, and advanced to the state meet. Amid great fan support, the team finished ninth, concluding a successful season. James Gunn, Jim Alley, and Scott Bowen were named to the All-Metro Team. Thanks to fans of the year Will Minkoff and Paul Wiecek.

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